Vacancies under Employees State Insurance Corporation

†941. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of vacancies exist in the various offices under Employees State Insurance Corporation as a result of which employees/workers are not getting in-time services; and

(b) if so, the details of measures taken to make the Employees State Insurance Corporation more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) There are some vacancies in some posts in the ESIC. However, it does not affect deliverly of services being provided to the employees and workers under the ESI Scheme. Necessary action is already being taken on an ongoing basis to fill up the vacant posts. A computerisation programme has also been launched to streamline working of the ESI Corporation. A machinery for redressal of public grievances has been set up and activated in the ESI Corporation.

Amendments in Labour Laws

942. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make some amendments to the Labour Laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Review and updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendments/fresh legislations are made depending on the result of the review. A number of labour laws have been enacted from time to time to address various aspects of labour which include Freedom of Association and Trade Unions

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Rights, conditions of work, minimum wages, social security, labour relations, migrant workers, forced labour, child labour, equal remuneration for women for same or similar nature of work etc. The government have recently set up the Second National Commission on Labour which would comprehensively review labour laws to ensure both consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Stoppage of child Labour

†943. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of child labourers are still being engaged throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take effective steps to stop the child labour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) According to the 1991 census data on child labour, the number of working children in the country is of the order of 11.28 million.

Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. State/UT Governments have an enforcement machinery to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.